



MARCH 22, 2007

DFAS St. Louis Transition Newsletter

"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us but by how we react to what happens, not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results. " --- Anonymous



Nothing matters more to our professionals than serving the men and women of America's Armed Forces.

Commander's Corner

Welcome to another edition of our Transition Times. This newsletter will feature information and news you can use on the enduring sites, our commemoration of service ceremony, personnel training and meetings with human resources. In short, something for everyone, so please check out this latest edition.

We have begun the transfer of our functions to DFAS-Columbus with Vendor Pay leading the way. I can't say enough about the professionalism of Vendor Pay in handing over their responsibilities to Columbus. Foreign military sales are next in line to move to Columbus towards the end of March.

You will find in this addition more information on our Commemoration of Service Ceremony recognizing the outstanding work you have contributed to DFAS and the U.S. Army. Please invite DFAS St Louis alumni you may know to

Enduring Site Spotlight

COLUMBUS, OHIO
The Second Fastest Growing Major Metropolitan Area in the Midwest

We're building America's 21st Century City as the best place in the nation to live, work and raise a family

.-Mayor Michael Coleman



DFAS Columbus is the most modern DFAS facility in the nation, currently employing more than 2,000 individuals. Its primary buildings were dedicated in 1999 and are located on the beautiful campus of the DSCC, a Federal complex less than 20 years old.

New to the Columbus Area? Planning to move? Here are some helpful links, with many additional links off of these:

[DFAS Columbus Website](#)

attend as well.

By our nature and training we are comfortable utilizing and analyzing numbers. Here is DFAS St Louis by the numbers as of 20 March 2007:

- 103 - Calendar days to closing
- 15 - PPP selections
- 49 - Employees moving to enduring sites
- 91 - Separation notices
- 93 - VERA/VSIP Acceptances.

Thank you for all you do for the soldiers pictured above and all those who serve with them.

COL K

**DFAS
ST. LOUIS**

GET TO KNOW THE BRAC TEAM!!

If you have any questions for the BRAC team feel free to email us, call us, or come down to visit us on the first floor by Elsie Cline's office, Column F6 and F5.

Vic Scauzzo
314-260-3362

Dave Radil
314-260-3457

[City of Columbus Government](#)
[Columbus Visitor's Center](#)
[Columbus Neighborhoods](#)
[Columbus Weather](#)
[Columbus Restaurant Guide](#)

[All important information for moving to the city of Columbus](#)
[Port Columbus International Airport](#)
[Columbus Public Schools](#)
[2004-05 Report Cards: Ohio Schools](#)
[Ohio State University](#)

*Mr. Dave Reckart (Dave.Reckart@dfas.mil) will be here in DFAS St. Louis on March 19-23. He will be available in the BRAC office if you have questions regarding DFAS Columbus and your transition. *

"We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails." – Bertha Calloway

Commemoration Ceremony News

Our commemoration of service ceremony is set for 10 April at 1000 in Bldg 105L; followed by a reception. The purpose of the ceremony is to honor all employees past and present for their contributions to DFAS and the U.S. Army. The ceremony is being conducted in April so more employees will have the opportunity to participate. Mr. Gaddy will host the ceremony and several special guests are attending as well.

All current employees do not need to RSVP - this is a mandatory "all hands" meeting. Please invite any former employees you may know. The attendance of our former employees, whether retired or actively working, will enhance this ceremony. Please ask the alumni to RSVP so we can ensure we have seating for them as well as access to the Federal Center.



HR Questions and Concerns



PCS

We have obtained videos for all the enduring sites for your viewing pleasure if you still happen to be undecided

about your future. To view these, you need to go out in Outlook and click the Public Forum folder. Once you are there, open the All Public folder and then open up the St. Louis folder. Once there, scroll down until you get to the DSL-BRAC folder and double click on that. Once you double click on this folder, it may take a few minutes to open since it is 260 MB large. You can then click on Limestone, Indianapolis, Rome, or Cleveland's videos for some insight on these great areas! Also, if you wish to view DFAS Columbus's DVD, we have these down in our BRAC Transition area for those of you who might be leaning towards DFAS Columbus as your future home.

If you still have questions pertaining to your PCS move, please refer to our PCS POC:

Victoria Nassif
Victoria.Nassif@dfas.mil
317-510-5044



All of you who are planning on retiring, and have accepted the VERA/VSIP offer, three HR retirement counselors will be here the week of 9-13 April. The counselors will be here to assist you in completing all of the necessary paperwork, and to answer any questions you may have. Recommend you familiarize yourself with the necessary forms that were identified in the email that confirmed your acceptance of VERA/VSIP so that when the counselors come you can ask specific questions. We will send an email shortly to provide additional information, and to start scheduling one on one sessions with the counselors.

Other HR Issues

- Slides are available out in the Public Forum pertaining to the Reemployment Priority List (RPL), the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP), or VSIP II for those of you who may have more questions on these programs.

For other HR issues be sure to visit AskHR on the e-portal, there are several questions and answers that might apply to you. [ASKHR](#)

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**SLATE (St. Louis Agency for Training and
Employment) and St. Louis Community
College**



Working Together for You

From Bonnie Mireles of SLATE

No more Work Keys assessments needed at this time.

The Adult Basic Education assessment (TABE) is needed when someone only has a High School/GED or an Associates degree that is more than 5 years old. Anyone holding a Bachelors degree or higher does not need to take the TABE. It is a pencil and paper test on Reading and Math. It is not timed but no calculators can be used. Bob Petrich and I will have the assessments with us when we visit DFAS starting April 4th.

Choices Interest Inventory This assessment will be used on a case by case basis determined by the career specialist (Bob or myself). Usually will be needed if individual is going into a totally different career field than they are in now. Example: You are an Accountant and want to get training in Nursing. This assessment is web based and given here at our career center. We are unable to offer testing at other career centers as I had hoped due to the different processes involved with each center. We will mail parking passes and written parking information for anyone that schedules an assessment to make the situation a little easier. Please call your Career Specialist (either Bob or myself) to schedule the assessment on an individual basis. This is actually an interesting assessment that will ask you about your interests and skills then give you overall vision of what direction you may want take in your career.

Our next scheduled visit to your facility is for April 4th ---8am to 3pm.

PCS'ing???



A Few Things to Remember

If you are PCS'ing to an enduring site **you need a Government Charge Card** before you go on your House Hunting Trip. Please see the BRAC team to get an application and we will help you in this process. Also, when going to Columbus please be sure to get a DFAS buddy, they can help you transition to

the new site.

BRAC Buddy HUGS program

BRAC Buddy HUGS (Help yoU Get Settled in) Program in DFAS Columbus, is a branch of the DFAS Columbus Mentoring Program and is an all volunteer sponsor program that was created to help DFAS Columbus' new and transferring employees.

We have one hour training for our BRAC Buddy's on the second Thursday of every pay period. Their duties are: helping new Columbus employees get used to getting around DFAS Building 21, amenities available there and in other buildings on the base such as: Credit Unions, Cafeterias, Break rooms, Command Offices, Gym, Golf Course, Nurse's Station and other necessary locations.

It is a 120 day commitment that begins during our Meet & Greet on the second day of in-processing to Columbus. We encourage our Buddy's to meet for lunch, take the new employee to their own area/new area and introduce everyone, get involved in DFAS Events, join a professional organization such as ASMC, AGA, BIG, Toastmasters, share places of interest in the Greater Columbus Area and in general, be available for questions. Most of the time involved is during breaks and lunch, very little work time is affected for sponsor or sponsee.

This program has been active since April 2006. We send out surveys after the first 30 days and our feedback has been over 92% positive. Our new and transferring employees appreciate the personal touch to help them get settled into their new location.

Questions regarding pre-transfer site tours, information on the Greater Columbus Area and more should be directed to Pam Nowicki, DFAS Columbus Mentoring Chair at Pam.Nowicki@dfas.mil or by calling 614/693-0266.

If you do not have a Columbus buddy yet please contact Pam Nowicki via email or at 614-693-7556. If you are projected to move to Indianapolis, you should receive a welcome letter and within that welcome letter should have your particular sponsor (buddy). If you have questions pertaining to your Indy sponsor, contact Heather Hall at 317-510-1097.



Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC)



Many of you may have attended the SDDC briefing at Scott Theater on January 9, 2007. However, if you missed the briefing and are interested in SDDC jobs that will be coming to Scott Air Force Base please be sure to visit the BRAC office for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Here are

some helpful websites that SDDC has provided to help you apply or search for SDDC positions. If you have questions contact the BRAC office.

[SDDC Job Openings](#)
[SDDC Resume Builder](#)